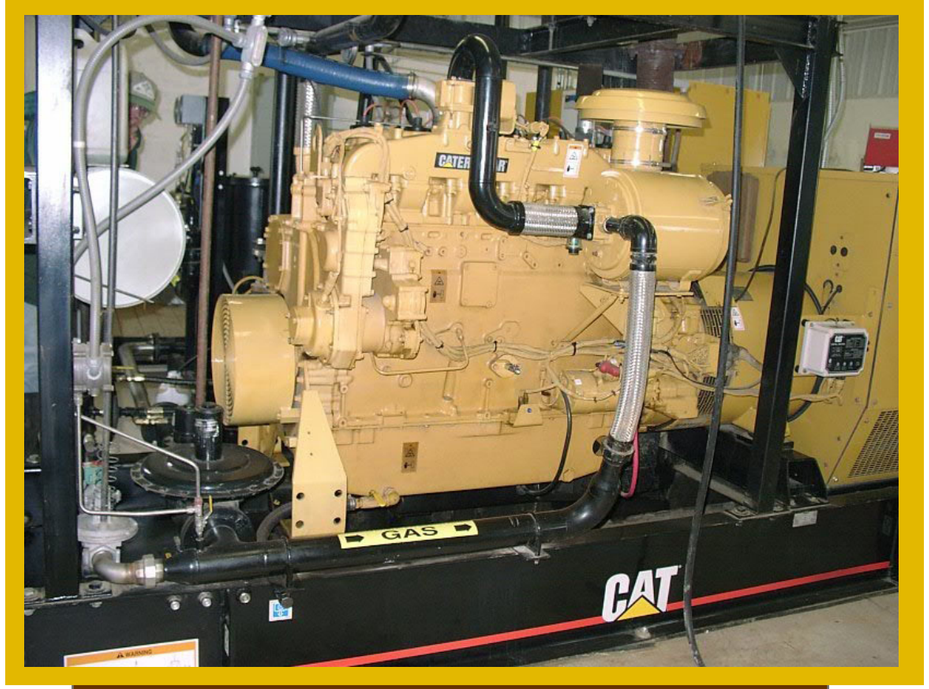
PRO-DAIRY

TRANSFERRING INNOVATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY IN THE NORTHEAST

NYSERDA Communications Project Expands



Engine generator running on biogas

Turning compost windrows

Draghose manure application on hay

During the past six years the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has committed over $8 million to more than 40 projects to improve energy efficiency and cost-effective methods of farm-waste management. As the benefits of these projects are proven, it is important to transfer program information to farmers and their advisors who can put these improved methods into widespread practice.

This project builds upon the existing technology-transfer capabilities of Cornell University and the Cooperative Extension System. A Project Advisory Group (PAG) was established from public and private agencies and organizations that are devoted to the success of agriculture. This PAG guides the technology transfer activities and assists through their own newsletters and publications. The project has identified experts in anaerobic digestion and composting technologies to quickly assist farms with innovative aspects of these technologies.

The Cornell team is compiling and analyzing data from NYSERDA projects, publishing the results in case studies and fact sheets, and has created many posters on various technologies of manure management (available on the project website below). In addition, the project team has written feature articles for *Northeast DairyBusiness* magazine. The project team is completing an update of Cornell Bulletin 458, Anaerobic Digesters for Dairy Farms, and has committed funding for updating the popular On Farm Composting Handbook.

Project results have been presented at workshops held in different regions of New York State. The project has participated in sponsorship of a northeast regional conference on "Dairy Manure Management: Treatment, Handling, and Community Relations", and a "Nitty Gritty" workshop on anaerobic digestion.

The project recently received a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to expand its collaborative base with other states in the northeast. Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will pool their resources and experience with New York to improve the profitability and environmental performance of manure management systems in the northeast.

Further Information

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